
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: April 20, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.

HOONAH SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka . . . Today the department conducted an aerial survey of the Hoonah Sound area. Active spawning was seen near the Emmons Spit, on Vixen Island, and on the Chichagof Island shoreline west of Vixen Island. Spawning was generally light and totaled less than ½ nautical mile. Approximately 70 sea lions were seen in the channel between Emmons Island and Rodgers Point, 30 sea lions were seen scattered on the north shore of Emmons Island, and 40 sea lions were scattered along the Chichagof Island shoreline west of Vixen Island. A number of net pens have herring introduced and several boats were actively fishing.

Fishermen that have not harvested their kelp are advised to do so as soon as possible and mobilize to the grounds. Based on today's observation of active spawn in the area and observations of fishing activity, department managers will be travelling to the grounds tomorrow on the state vessel *Kittiwake III* and will anchor in Fick Cove for the duration of the fishery. Aerial surveys will be conducted on a daily basis through the duration of the spawn. Once on the grounds department managers will be monitoring VHF channel 16 and/or 10. Daily updates of aerial survey results will be broadcasted on VHF channel 10.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
Herring Hotline	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905			

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